

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2876

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJ: CSCE POLICY: WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

REF: GENEVA 2748

1. THIS TELEGRAM REPORTS NEW SOVIET SUGGESTION FOR
PARA 5 OF JOURNALISTS TEXT AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO PRIVATE CONVERSATION REPORTED
REFTEL AND FURTHER INFORMAL MEETING OF INFORMATION
SUBCOMMITTEE IN WHICH WE REITERATED OUR VIEW OF WHAT
PARA 5 OF JOURNALISTS TEXT SHOULD CONTAIN, SOVIET
BASKET III CHIEF DUBININ ASKED TO SEE US AGAIN FOR
FURTHER PRIVATE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. DUBININ
WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ANXIOUS AND EVEN A BIT
NERVOUS. HE ASKED US TO IDENTIFY REMAINING POINTS
OF INTEREST OT US IN JOURNALISTS TEXT, AND WE RE-
PEATED OUR EARLIER STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. AFTER LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF SOVIET DIFFICULTIES IN
ACCEPTING WESTERN PROPOSALS ON JOURNALISTS, DUBININ
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OFFERED US A NEW TEXT (TRANSMITTED BELOW) FOR PARA 5

OF JOURNALISTS PAPER, WHICH HE SAID WAS HIS "PERSONAL IDEA," AND WHICH HE REQUESTED BE CLOSELY HELD. NEW TEXT INCLUDES PHRASE "FACILITATE TRAVEL," WHICH SOVIETS HAVE THUS FAR RESISTED, BUT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT MEET SPECIFIC POINTS OF STATE 79988. WE POINTED OUT TO DUBININ THAT HIS TEXT DID NOT INCLUDE EITHER POINT WE HAD SUGGESTED: WIDER TRAVEL OR TIMELY RESPONSE. HE ADMITTED THIS WAS SO, BUT REQUESTED US TO TRANSMIT TEXT TO WASHINGTON FOR REVIEW. WE AGREED TO DO THIS, BUT SAID WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE DEPARTMENT COULD ACCEPT DUBININ TEXT SINCE WE DESIRE CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN JOURNALISTS' WORKING CONDITIONS TO BE CLEARLY STATED IN TEXT. ONLY CONCRETE POINTS IN THIS PARA ARE WIDER TRAVEL AND EARLY RESPONSE, AND THESE SHOULD BE REFLECTED DIRECTLY IN PARA 5.

4. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMEND DUBININ'S TEXT. FROM MANY HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS WHICH SOVIETS AND OTHER EASTERN DELS HAVE MADE BE BELIEVE SOVIETS CAN EVENTUALLY ACCEPT SOME WORKING ON EARLY RESPONSE, AND WE HAVE RECENTLY OFFERED THEM A COMPROMISE FORMULATION FOR WIDER TRAVEL (WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL - SEE REFTEL). WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND HOLDING FIRM ON CONTENT OF PARA 5, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

5. BEGIN TEXT. ACTING ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS, GRADUALLY FACILITATE TRAVEL BY ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES IN THE RECEIVING COUNTRY AND THE PROCEDURES FOR ARRANGING (OBTAINING AUTHORIZATION FOR) SUCH TRAVEL, SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS CONCERNING AREAS CLOSED FOR SECURITY REASONS. END TEXT.
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